



# Together against hate

An advice leaflet for Southdown tenants

Southdown

At Southdown we believe in creating a truly inclusive culture where everyone feels a sense of belonging. We are committed to removing all forms of discrimination and to supporting equality, equity, diversity and promoting inclusion. We recognise the seriousness of hate crime and hate incidents and their impact on victims and witnesses. We will not tolerate any form of hate crime or hate incident and will take reports seriously.

We work in partnership with the Police, other organisations and the local authority to prevent and tackle hate behaviour, whilst supporting those involved. We work closely with the police to collect evidence, such as CCTV and co-ordinate actions, such as taking tenancy action following a criminal conviction.

We may make referrals to specialist hate support services who can offer a range of services including safety planning advice, support with attending court, emotional support and counselling.

## What is a Hate Crime?

Hate crimes and hate incidents are acts of violence or hostility directed at people because of who they are or who someone thinks they are. For example, you might be verbally abused in the street because you are disabled or because someone thinks you are gay.

The law defines an incident as a hate crime if it is motivated by prejudice based on:

- Race
- Sexual orientation
- Transgender identity
- Disability
- Religion or belief

The impact of hate crime is serious and often life-changing. It has a devastating impact on the lives of individuals, their families. Hate crimes often leave people feeling confused and frightened and as a result the majority of hate crime goes

unreported. Not all hate incidents are hate crimes, but any incident that makes you feel attacked, uncomfortable or upset should be reported to the police.

Without calling out and reporting hate incidents, the perpetrators of hate crimes often go on to commit more and more serious offences. Hate crime and hate incidents can be verbal or physical.

Examples include but are not limited to:

- Name-calling and offensive jokes.
- Bullying, harassment or intimidation by adults, children, neighbours or strangers. Threats of violence.
- Hoax calls, abusive phone or text messages or hate mail.
- Online abuse (on Facebook or other social media).
- Harm or damage to your home.
- Damage to a building such as a place of worship
- Graffiti and arson

## What Should I Do if I Experience or Witness a Hate Crime?



**In an emergency – where a hate crime is in progress or someone is in immediate danger – you should always call 999.**

Speaking up can be difficult but reporting makes a big difference. If you are distressed about an incident and want something done about what happened then please don't let it go. Often hate crimes grow from seemingly small incidents. By reporting a hate crime you may be able to prevent it happening to somebody else. It also helps the police understand the extent of hate crime in your local area so they can better respond to it. You do not have to experience a hate crime yourself to report it. The incident could have been directed at a friend, neighbour, family member, colleague or stranger. If you see it or hear it – you can report it.



## How to Report a Hate Crime?

You can report a hate crime directly to the police by calling the non-emergency number 101. Hate crimes in England, Wales and Northern Ireland can be reported to the police online through True Vision at:  
**[report-it.org.uk/home](https://report-it.org.uk/home)**

If you need any help reporting a crime, you can contact your local Citizens Advice Bureau.

In addition, you can report hate crime to the following independent organisations who support those communities most at risk and offer an alternative way of reporting if you don't want to report to the police, including:

- Stop Hate UK (all hate crime).
- Tell Mama (anti-Muslim hate crime).
- Community Security Trust (anti-Semitic hate crime).
- GALOP (anti-LGBTQ+ hate crime).

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We are here to support you, so please get  
in touch with your Housing Officer.

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